litical chaos resulting from the impact of the West and the collapse of the Ch'ing has weakened or eliminated several of the centers of the production of artistic objects. Added to this has been the demand in the West for certain types of Chinese products. To meet it the handicraftsman has often yielded to the temptation to hurried and therefore careless work or to use cheap materials. Probably even more devastating has been the undiscriminating popularity in China of things Western. Thus the Chinese, and especially the educated Chinese, often abandons his old costume for Occidental garb, studies Western music, attempts to paint in European fashion, and discards his older forms of architecture for those of the West or attempts to combine the two in strange hybrids which violate the canons of both.

Reconstruction has only barely begun, but here and there are encouraging movements. Among the educated nationalistic spirit has brought sporadic waves of return to native garb. It has also stimulated attention to the remains of the older culture. It has accentuated an interest in archeology and has led to the collection of some of the folk songs. In architecture there are successful examples of an effort to adapt native forms to modern uses. Among these are the mausoleum of Sun Yat-sen at Nanking and buildings in some of the colleges and universities, notably several of those maintained by the Christian forces. It is interesting that much of the most satisfactory utilization of Chinese models has been by Western architects and by Chinese whom they have trained.

In no other realm of contemporary Chinese

culture is it more difficult to forecast the future. The old traditions are being so weakened and such scanty beginnings are being made toward something new that the friends of China can only be patient and hope. Whether the Chinese sesthetic sense will in time be stimulated to fresh creative expression of a high order no one knows. Still less ought one to essay the role of a prophet in predicting the forms which, if it appears, the renaissance will take. One can only express the wish that the heritage of the past will not be completely abandoned, and that it will form the basis and provide much of the inspiration for whatever is to come.